



Special Education Programs  
Advisory Panel for Children with  
Disabilities  
Annual Report 2006-2007

Meeting Dates

June 26 & 27, 2006 - Pierre Administration Building,  
Pierre, SD

October 19 & 20, 2006 – Black Hills State University,  
Spearfish, SD

January 4 & 5, 2007 – Pierre School District  
Administrative Building, Pierre, SD

April 19 & 20, 2007 – Center for Disabilities, Sanford  
School of Medicine, Sioux Falls, SD

June 25, 2007 – Kniep Building, Pierre, SD

### **Chairperson of the Board**

Ms. Michele Cogley - Parent, Claremont

#### **Duties include:**

- ❖ Presiding at all meetings
- ❖ Planning and organizing meetings with the executive committee
- ❖ Preparing meeting agendas with the executive committee
- ❖ Assisting in preparing and submitting the annual report

### **Vice Chairperson**

Lisa Heckenlaible- Special Education Teacher,  
Mitchell

#### **Duties include:**

- ❖ Presiding at meetings when the chairperson is absent
- ❖ Planning and organizing meetings with the executive committee
- ❖ Preparing meeting agendas with the executive committee
- ❖ Assisting in preparing and submitting the annual report

### **Upcoming Discussion Items**

Data Collection  
Eligibility Guide  
State Performance Plan

### **Board Members**

Todd Christensen- Administrator, Kibben-Kuster, Rapid City  
Greg Cooch- Assistant Professor, Special Ed, BHSU, Spearfish  
Jim Dunston- Administrator, State Treatment and Rehab, Custer  
Gail Eichstadt- Parent, Pierre  
Bernie Grimme- Assistant Director, DRS, Pierre  
Nicole Haneke- Parent, Sioux Falls  
Judy Hoscheid- Auxiliary Placements Program, DSS, Pierre  
Mark Krogstrand- Person with a disability, Aberdeen  
Greg Riley- Administrator, Black Hills Children's Home, Rapid City  
Heather Stettinichs- Parent, Brandon  
Laura Johnson Frame, McKinney Vento representative, Pierre  
Karn Barth- Administrator, Garretson  
Nora Svatos- Parent, Lake Andes

### **Staff Members**

Janet Ricketts - Director, Office of Educational Services and Support  
Ann Larsen – Director, Special Education Programs

### **SEP Staff**

Angela Boddicker	Melissa Flor
Becky Cain	Peggy Mattke
Raymond Tracy	Linda Turner
Merle Doolittle	

### **Panel Purpose**

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act requires the establishment of a Special Education Advisory Panel to provide suggestions and advice to the State Department of Education on critical issues regarding special education services throughout South Dakota.

### **Panel Functions**

- ❖ Advise the SEA of unmet needs within the state in the education of children with disabilities
- ❖ Comment publicly on any rules or regulations proposed by the state regarding the education of children with disabilities
- ❖ Advise the SEA in developing evaluations and reporting on data to the Secretary under section 618 of the Act
- ❖ Advise the SEA in developing corrective action plans to address findings identified in Federal monitoring reports under Part B of the Act
- ❖ Advise the SEA in developing and implementing policies relating to the coordination of services for children with disabilities
- ❖ Review and comment on final due process hearing findings and decisions
- ❖ Advise on eligible students with disabilities in adult prisons and on the education of eligible students with disabilities who have been convicted as adults and incarcerated in adult prisons

### **Interagency Agreements**

SEP has current interagency agreements with the following agencies:

- ❖ Dept of Corrections
- ❖ SD School for the Deaf, SD School for the Blind and Visually Impaired
- ❖ Dept of Social Services
- ❖ Transition Agreement - Dept of Social Services, Dept of Human Services, Dept of Labor

The transition agreement requires a bi-annual meeting of the agencies to ensure provision of services. The other agreements stipulate that an agency may request a meeting to address language or program changes at anytime throughout the period the agreement is in effect; which could be one to three years depending on the agreement.

### **S.D. Navigator Program**

The South Dakota Navigator Program is designed to improve family-school partnerships and to provide individualized guidance and direction to both parents and schools regarding special education and related services. Trained Peer Navigator Consultants are available in each region of the state.

It is anticipated that the SD Navigator Program will result in respectful interactions between families and school personnel, encourage effective and productive IEP meetings, and lead to the best possible discussions and decisions regarding each student's educational program.

### **Alternate Assessment**

The alternate assessment is intended for students with significant cognitive disabilities. Students who do not meet the criteria for significantly cognitively disabled can still take this assessment; however, these students would be counted as below basic for annual yearly progress (AYP) purposes.

School Districts received copies of the Alternate Content Standards. There were also alternate assessment trainings held in Rapid City, Pierre, and Sioux Falls.

### **Response to Intervention (RtI)**

South Dakota created a workgroup to draft an RtI guide. This draft guide and procedures provide assistance to districts who are implementing high-quality instruction and intervention based on an individual student's needs. South Dakota has organized training and established a pilot program to incorporate RtI.

### **Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)**

South Dakota has organized training and established a pilot program to incorporate PBIS. This system is designed to prevent school and classroom discipline problems. PBIS develops support staff to teach and promote positive behavior for all students.

### **Panel Priorities**

The panel identified the following four priorities for 2006-2007.

1. Addressing the issues concerning the State Performance Plan.
2. Addressing child find activities.
3. Ensuring quality service providers are available to children with disabilities.

### **Issues Addressed by the Panel**

#### **Eligibility Guide**

An Eligibility taskforce has provided input with the purpose of revising the Eligibility Guide for Special Education. The panel discussed the guide and provided recommendations.

#### **Administrative Rules**

There were some changes made to the Administrative Rules for South Dakota after the reauthorization of IDEA. These changes were adopted by the Board of Education.

### **Parent Survey**

The purpose of the Parent Survey is to assist the Special Education Programs unit in determining the extent to which schools are facilitating parent involvement. The survey data will assist the schools in improving parent involvement and will result in positive outcomes for parents as well as improved outcomes for children.

### **State Performance Plan**

The State Performance Plan (SPP) is a six year plan. This plan contains 20 indicators which were determined by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). Targets were set at the state level for each indicator. SPP data must be collected and reported on annually to the public, at both the state and district level.

Trainings were held throughout SD to discuss the SPP and the new requirements. The following information was shared at these trainings:

- ❖ Special Education Programs (SEP) is recommending that the Battelle Developmental Inventory Second Edition (BDI-2) be used as the tool to track preschool outcomes.
- ❖ SEP will contract with MPRRC to collect parent survey data. MPRRC's Role will involve:
  - Identifying an appropriate survey
  - Assisting in validating the survey
  - Assisting in reaching consensus with key stakeholders
  - Formatting the survey
  - Working with lead State staff

- Analyzing data and preparing state report for February 2007 submission
- Keep state updated on other state's efforts and data trends.

- ❖ SEP will collect data on the percent of youth aged 16 and above with an IEP that includes coordinated, measurable, annual IEP goals and transition services that will reasonably enable the student to meet the post-secondary goals. This data will be collected through the monitoring process.
- ❖ A secured website was developed to collect information on high school special education students who exit special education through graduating, aging out, or dropping out. SEP has contracted with Black Hills State University (BHSU) to collect one year follow up survey information, compile, and analyze the results at state and district levels, and follow up surveys. BHSU will be contacting these students one year after exiting.

### **New Monitoring**

The South Dakota Accountability System for Special Education is in line with the new guidelines in IDEA 2004 and General Supervision requirements as outlined by the OSEP (Office of Special Education Programs). The system will ensure that the State and Local Districts comply with the Federal Special Education requirements and monitor those areas most closely associated with improved results for children with disabilities.